AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0013]   ~~FIG. 3 is a schematic of the hardware and software architecture of an embodiment of the invention.~~

[0024]   Referring to ~~FIG. 3, a schematic of~~ the hardware and software architecture of an embodiment of the invention ~~is presented. In the embodiment,~~ the above-described sharing functionality is implemented as a software program ~~330~~ for operation on a computer system ~~310~~. The computer system itself comprises one or more connections to a network of computers ~~320~~ including computers of recipients and connected to the computer system is a digital camera ~~300~~ to capture and provide the image to the computer system. All such connections may be wired or wireless. The software program receives the image from the digital camera via the computer system.

[0025]   Once the image is received, the image is processed by the sharing engine ~~340~~ of the software using face recognition techniques in conjunction with a face image and/or information database ~~360~~ to determine face identifying information for the image. If the face identifying information is not in a format suitable for the applicable sharing rule(s), the face identifying information is used in conjunction with a face database ~~350~~ to convert the face identifying information into or associate it with face data such as a full or shortened personal name for application to one or more sharing rules ~~370~~. The sharing engine then applies the sharing rules, configured in the software program by a user, to the image and associated face identifying information (whether in its original form and/or as face data) to determine intended recipients. The e-mail addresses of intended recipients, if any, are retrieved from a database of e-mail addresses ~~380~~ maintained for intended recipients. Then, for each intended recipient resulting from the successful application of one or more sharing rules, e-mails with the image attached are created within and sent by an associated sending unit ~~390~~ such as an e-mail application using the retrieved e-mail address.